Assessment on the rural textiles industry after quota system

882. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) it has been more than six months since the phasing out of quota system, has Government conducted impact assessment on the rural textile industry of the quota phase out and supportive Governments policy initiatives that were initiated to support and promote the rural textile industry;

(b) if so, how the report of the assessment can be accessed;

(c) what steps have been taken to ensure the livelihood of the rural artisans, especially women workers in India;

(d) whether there is any provision made for skill development to secure alternative job; and

(e) if so, what are the specific job alternatives?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) No impact assessment study on the rural textile industry of the quota phase out has been made so far by the Government. Moreover, only eleven months have since elapsed after the removal of quota restrictions and analysis of exports over a period of 1-2 years would be a reasonable period for a fair assessment of the impact.

Export trends after the removal of quota restrictions from 01.01.2005 indicate that India textile exports to the major markets have shown a substantial increase. European Union (EU) and the United States (US) account for nearly 60% of India's overall textile exports. The US trade data shows that textile imports from India into US during the period January—August 2005 have recorded a growth of 26.49% as compared to the corresponding period last year. Similarly, despite a decrease (4% in value terms) in EU imports, the EU trade data shows a growth (13.9% in value tecms) in imports from India into EU-25 during the period January—August, 2005 as compared to the corresponding period last year.

(c) to (e) Under the Handloom Export Scheme, financial assistance is provided to eligible handloom agencies for development of exportable range of handloom products and international marketing thereof. The scheme is not gender specific. One of the components of the scheme is skill upgradation of handloom weavers so that they may sustain their livelihood in the handloom industry.